



September 12, 2023

TO: Chair Shannon and members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Amy Zaagman, Executive Director
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Re: HB 4511 and 4512

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health asks for your support on HB 4511 and 4512 to help ensure Michigan kids are placed in the safest seats and restraints as passengers in a motor vehicle.

MCMCH membership is comprised of large hospital systems, statewide organizations and local entities with a mission to shape policy and legislation that impact maternal and child health in our state. Our membership also includes some of the specialized providers who may be called on to care for children seriously injured in a motor vehicle crash. We believe HB 4511 and 4512 can play a part in reducing preventable injuries and deaths.

Thank you to Reps. Carrie Rheingans and John Fitzgerald for their interest and commitment to updating Michigan's child safety seat statute. Michigan's child safety seat statute is out-of-date with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations and the National Highway Traffic Safety recommendations. Just as the range of car seats has evolved and grown to meet the research available, we need statute that reinforces strong standards and does not create confusion for parents and law enforcement.

Consistency of messaging is a major component to effective education and establishing healthy behaviors—we want all parents to see and hear the safest ways to situate their children in a motor vehicle regardless of whether that information comes from their child's medical care provider, a certified safety seat inspector, a member of law enforcement or as part of manufacturer information they receive with their child's seat. HB 4511 and 4512 create consistency in the recommendations and information for parents ensuring the child remains properly restrained for their age and size.

Too many children are moved forward into seats that are not appropriate for their physical development and it leaves them more vulnerable to injury and death in a vehicle crash. More than 100 children younger than 8 die in a crash in Michigan each year. I am a member of the Michigan Child Death Review State Team that studies data and trends in child deaths and makes various recommendations, and we have consistently included measures such as HBs 4511 and 4512 in our prevention recommendations.

MCMCH members urge the House Transportation Committee to advance these bills and help to send a consistent message to parents about how to keep their children safe on our roads.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of
Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C.S. Mott
Children's Hospital and Von
Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American
College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

Mott Children's Health Center

School-Community Health
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Michigan Association for Infant
Mental Health

Michigan Association of
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Maternal-Newborn Nurse
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Nurse Practitioners

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